Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar :—" Have the Government taken legal opinion that they are not civilly liable for the diversion of these funds ?"

Mr. V. C. Vellingiri Gounder :—" My question has not yet been answered, Sir."

The hon. the President :—" As regards the question put by the hon. Member, Mr. Vellingiri Gounder, I presume that it was not answered because it was a suggestion for action."

Mr. V. C. Vellingiri Gounder :—" My point was whether the hon. the Minister would consider the desirability of modifying the section."

The hon. the President :—" A question in that form is a suggestion for action."

Civil Justice.

Appointment of non-gazetted officers to the Provincial Judicial Service.

411 Q.—Mr. J. D. Samuel : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state if his attention was drawn to a Resolution of the 3rd Provincial Conference of non-gazetted officers held in 1921 praying that one-third of the vacancies in the Provincial Judicial Service may be reserved for duly qualified non-gazetted Officers in the Judicial department ?

A.—The Resolution has since been perused but such recruitment is prohibited under the orders of the Government of India.

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Mr. J. D. Samuel :—" Will the Government consider the prayer of the non-gazetted officers ? "

The hon. Mr. C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—" I shall consider it."

Irrigation.

Water-rate for the lands irrigated by the Periyar river.

412 Q.—Mr. A. Chidambara Nadar : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(1) whether it is a fact that the water-rate for the lands irrigated by the Periyar river in the Madura district is going to be doubled ;

(2) whether any Government Order has been issued with regard to the matter ; and

(3) if so, what the reason is for enhancing the assessment ?

A.—(1) & (2) No. The hon. Member is referred to notifications published at page 1142, Part I of *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated 9th October 1923, and page 1397, Part I of *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated 11th December 1923. These notifications refer to a small area of about 1,300 acres of land in Cumbum valley recently included in Periyar water-rate area.

(3) Higher rates than the ordinary Periyar rates were fixed owing to the need for limiting further irrigation and the very high value of water in this area.

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Mr. A. Chidambara Nadar :—" With reference to the answer to clause (3) of my question, does the Government consider that the enhancement of a higher rate is the only way of limiting further irrigation, and if they think so, does it not amount to penalising the people who are entitled to get a supply of water ? "

The hon. Mr. C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—" Because they thought that it was not penalising."

Rai Bahadur Sir K. Venkatareddi Nayudu :—" With reference to the answer given by the hon. Member in charge, will he be pleased to state whether the levy of high rates fixed, owing to the alleged need for limiting further irrigation and the very high value of water in this area, is authorized by the terms of the Act VII of 1865 ? "

The hon. Mr. C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—" It is not prohibited by it."

Rai Bahadur Sir K. Venkatareddi Nayudu :—" Will the hon. Member be pleased to state whether he is sure if the object of the Act, as disclosed in the preamble, is not entirely inconsistent with any such power ? "

(No answer.)

The Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

413 *Q.*—Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar : Will the hon. the Law Member and the hon. the Minister for Education and Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether Diwan Bahadur A. V. Ramalinga Ayyar, late Chief Engineer for Irrigation, looked after the work of special projects in addition to his general work till his retirement ;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that he was appointed as a Special Officer after his retirement when another officer was appointed as Chief Engineer ;

(*c*) whether there was any special reason as to why Mr. Ramalinga Ayyar should have been appointed as a Special Officer instead of his services being extended ;

(*d*) whether it is a fact that now also a separate Special Officer has been appointed to look after two special schemes in addition to the permanent Chief Engineer for Irrigation ;

(*e*) what the special reason was that necessitated two highly paid officers to look after the work which was done by one officer before ;

(*f*) whether the present Special Officer is duly qualified and whether he possesses the necessary training to be in charge of the irrigation schemes and, if so, what were the schemes in which he has worked before ;

(*g*) whether the Special Officer has been appointed for any fixed period and, if so, what that period is ?

A.—(*a*) No.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) Yes. He retired under the ordinary rule regarding age limit and the intention was that he should devote his whole attention to the Cauvery-Metur and the Sangameswaram Project Schemes during his special duty.

(*d*), (*f*) & (*g*) No special officer has been appointed.

(*e*) The work was not done by one officer before—vide clause (*a*) above.